

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-06 H-02 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSC-05 /088 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
NEA/IRN - MR. NAAS
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 045540

R 022105Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS STATE 000518

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 2, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. WHEN IS HELMS COMING BACK, PAUL?

A. WELL, HE WILL BE RETURNING, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE
DETAILS ON HIS ARRIVAL.

Q. IS IT TODAY?

A. NO.

Q. THIS HOME LEAVE HAD BEEN LONG SCHEDULED, WE UNDERSTAND.
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HAVE THEY CHANGED THE DATES?

A. NO. AS BOB ANDERSON EXPLAINED, THIS GOES BACK TO OCTOBER, I BELIEVE, WHEN AMBASSADOR HELMS INDICATED HIS WISH TO COME ON HOME LEAVE AND CONSULTATIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH A VACATION IN EUROPE, AND HE DECIDED TO PURSUE THOSE PLANS. SO THIS WILL BE ACCORDING TO THAT ORIGINAL SCHEDULE THAT HE HAD.

Q. BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SCHEDULE IS.

Q. IS IT TOMORROW?

A. HE WILL BE COMING --

Q. WHY CAN'T WE GET AN ANSWER TO WHEN HELMS IS GOING TO SEE THE SECRETARY OF STATE? HE'S HIS BOSS, ISN'T HE?

A. WELL, WITH RESPECT TO HIS SEEING THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AS OF THIS MOMENT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER TO YOU AS TO WHEN HE WILL BE SEEING THE SECRETARY.

Q. PAUL, WHERE IS HE LEAVING FROM?

A. WELL, HE HAS BEEN ON PRIVATE VACATION IN EUROPE. WE HAVE NOT INDICATED WHERE, BECAUSE HE WISHED TO KEEP IT PRIVATE.

Q. HE DIDN'T GO BACK TO HIS POST.

A. NO.

Q. PAUL, I CAN ACCEPT THAT HE IS SPENDING A PRIVATE VACATION, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THIS SECRECY ABOUT WHEN HE IS GOING TO ARRIVE. AS YOU SAID, THIS IS PRE-ARRANGED, PRE-SCHEDULED HOME LEAVE. PRESUMABLY IT IS KNOWN WHEN HE IS GOING TO COME.

A. YES -- I APPRECIATE YOUR QUESTION. BUT THAT REALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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IS ALL I HAVE TO PROVIDE AT THIS TIME.

Q. PAUL, ARE YOU UNDER DIRECTIONS NOT TO TELL US?

A. I THINK THE AMBASSADOR WOULD, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, LIKE TO RETURN PRIVATELY, IF THAT IS POSSIBLE.

Q. IS THIS FOR REASONS OF SECURITY? HE IS ON THE

PUBLIC PAYROLL. THAT'S THE ONLY PROBLEM HERE. THE GOVERNMENT IS PAYING HIS TRAVELLING EXPENSES. SO I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HIS PRIVACY AMOUNTS TO MUCH.

Q. ANDERSON TOLD US THAT HE IS COMING BACK EITHER ON THE SECOND OR THE THIRD.

A. YES.

Q. THIS STANDS.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. EITHER TODAY OR TOMORROW.

A. YES.

Q. YOU ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY WHETHER IT IS TODAY OR TOMORROW.

A. I SAID HE WAN'T COMING TODAY.

Q. YES.

Q. YOU WILL STAND ON THE STATEMENT IT IS EITHER TODAY OR TOMORROW.

A. YES, I WILL.

Q. PAUL, WILL THE SECRETARY SEE HIM AT THE WHITE HOUSE OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT? IS HE SEEING HIM AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH?

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A. THE SECRETARY IS RETURNING FROM PUERTO RICO THIS EVENING, AS I SAID, AND THESE QUESTIONS, THESE ISSUES THAT YOU POSE, JUST SIMPLY HAVE NOT BEE PRECISELY ADDRESSED AT THIS POINT. THAT IS WHY I AM UNABLE TO GIVE YOU A SPECIFIC ANSWER.

Q. WELL, WILL YOU MAKE AN EFFORT TO TRY TO ADVISE US IN ADVANCE OF THE HELMS-KISSINGER MEETING THAT THERE WILL BE SUCH A MEETING? IN OTHER WORDS, CAN WE HEAR ABOUT IT BEFORE HELMS LEAVES FOR HIS POST AGAIN?

A. I WILL DO MY UTMOST, YES. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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